

and 3) Some Psychological Determinants of the Choice Between Suicide and Homicide.

The authors consider suicide and homicide in general to be forms of aggression, the former turned inward, the latter outward. In closing Part One, they say: "We started out with the problem of internalization of parental demands and expectations and the associated inhibition of outward expression of aggression. And we are ending our discussion with the problem of projection. . . . Let us restate our sociological and psychological bases of legitimacy of other-oriented aggression. Internalization of harsh parental demands and discipline produces a high 'psychological probability' of suicide and a low 'psychological probability' of homicide. . . . The 'psychological' determination of the legitimacy of other-oriented aggression is a function of the degree to which childhood aggression threatens nurturance. Clearly this 'psychological' basis cannot in and of itself explain the persistent variations in the suicide and homicide rates at differing points in the social structure and the life cycle" (pp. 118-119).

As a way of accounting for "differences in rates of suicide and homicide at differing points in the social structure and the life cycle," the authors turn to the proposition that "legitimization of other-oriented aggression varies directly with the strength of external restraint over behavior of the adult" as a function of the "relational system and position in the status hierarchy."

The latter position is important because it saves the authors from too great a dependence upon the idea that degrees of external restraint upon the child which do or do not threaten nurturance are adequate to account for the inward or outward direction of aggressive responses.

It is possible that Henry and Short could profitably explore further the force exercised by cultural variations in patterns of response permitted by those who suffer from resentment. In the South, for example, the more favorably placed as well as those of lowly status are more given to crimes against persons than in non-Southern areas of the United States: a matter

not of social structure but of codes of honor.

It is also difficult for some students to believe that all forms of suicide grow out of resentment against other persons turned inward. All suicides are the result of frustration, *but not necessarily of frustration by other persons*. Criminally aggressive responses in many instances may not be the result of frustration at all; may even be the mores of subcultural groups.

This capable and provocative treatment of suicide and homicide is a challenge to future research. It merits the attention of the serious student.

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CECIL G. SHEPS and EUGENE E. TAYLOR.
Needed Research in Health and Medical Care: A Bio-Social Approach. Pp. ix, 216. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1954. \$5.00.

Needed Research in Health and Medical Care is based on a seminar on the same topic held at the University of North Carolina in September 1952. The three-day session of forty-seven scientists from various biological and social disciplines produced 600 pages of transcript. The authors have not, however, presented this in the undigested form made possible by modern recording techniques. They have organized the fruit of these discussions into a contribution to interdisciplinary research.

Much of the discussion consisted apparently in mutual absorption of concepts and attitudes, and otherwise learning to communicate with one another. Of the five chapters, the first deals generally with the purpose of bio-social research, and the last is a summary of conclusions. "The Fields of Bio-Social Research" (Chapter II) are delineated as major categories defined by disciplines rather than a conceptualization of the health field from an interdisciplinary viewpoint. It appears significant that one of the categories of research presented is social epidemiology, which is admittedly a redundant term, although considered necessary. Problems of the social organization of bio-social research appear to be paramount. "Problems in Methodology" (Chap-

ter III) are considered broadly in terms of the utility of cross-sectional versus longitudinal studies, for instance, as practiced in various projects, rather than an abstract consideration of the utility of various logico-statistical procedures. "Special Organizational Problems" (Chapter IV) deals with financing, location (university or health facility), recruitment of researchers, and the research and societal roles of the social scientist and physician. There are appendices concerning the organization of the seminar, and three selected pre-seminar statements, which were invited to serve in lieu of formal presentations at the meeting.

The problems mentioned illustrate the various positions from which bio-social research is viewed and from which the book will be considered. For those actively working in such research, the book is heartening because of the number of projects presented demonstrating that the problems are surmountable and the approach valuable, although what might be more useful to those in the field is a further interchange of results and some development of theory. The book will be of major value to those contemplating bio-social research in health. While it does not go far beyond the social problems involved in establishing interdisciplinary research, it covers these thoroughly. By a frank presentation of the issues that must be faced, it should facilitate the necessary process of establishing rapport, and reduce the time required for discussions on projects. This would be a genuine aid to much needed research.

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HERBERT PARNES. *Research on Labor Mobility: An Appraisal of Research Findings in the United States.* (Bulletin No. 65.) Pp. xi, 205. New York: Social Science Research Council, 1954. \$1.75.

Research on Labor Mobility merits an important place on the shelves of social scientists, particularly those who have not done special work or have not had special interest in the field. The Social Science Research Council and the author have performed a valuable service in pulling to-

gether in summary form the concepts, methods, and findings of those who over the past two decades have done research on labor mobility.

There are six chapters. In the first the author develops a "framework" into which he proposes to fit the numerous individual studies. He makes it clear that short-run flexibility of the labor supply in relation to the allocation of the human resource in the 1930's and 1940's is his focus, rather than other possible foci, such as workers' goals and their ability to attain them, or the degree of fluidity in the class structure of society, or the effects of movement on workers and their families.

The five other chapters deal with the main conceptual and methodological problems involved in labor mobility research; the extent and character of labor mobility; the chief determinants of labor allocation; and suggestions for further research in the field.

In respect to the concept of labor mobility, useful distinctions are made among workers' ability to move; their willingness to move; and their actual movement. Content is also given to seven different sorts of movement: inter-firm; inter-occupation; inter-industry; inter-area; from employed to unemployed status, and vice versa; and movement into and out of the labor force. The validity and reliability of the sources of data on these items—including employees' case histories, employers' personnel records, and social insurance records on number and duration of jobs, wage rates and earnings, labor turnover, and other items—are considered.

To many readers the summaries of research findings on patterns of labor mobility and on the conditions—motivational and institutional—that determine these patterns will be of major interest. So also will the discussion of these determinants in relation to the assumptions and conclusions of economic theory on wage differentials and labor-resource allocation.

The author finds significant gaps and weaknesses in the empirical data available from the summarized studies. In order to test the universality of the conclusions reached by mobility research thus far, he suggests: (1) parallel studies in diverse